

PATENTS

**IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE**

<b>Applicant:</b>	Katsumi Sasaki	<b>Examiner:</b>	Unassigned
<b>Serial No:</b>	To be assigned	<b>Art Unit:</b>	Unassigned
<b>Filed:</b>	Herewith	<b>Docket:</b>	15174
<b>For:</b>	SURGICAL OPERATION INSTRUMENT	<b>Dated:</b>	December 21, 2001



Assistant Commissioner for Patents  
United States Patent and Trademark Office  
Washington, D.C. 20231

#3

**INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT**

Sir:

In accordance with 37 C.F.R. §§ 1.97 and 1.98, it is requested that the following references, which are also listed on the attached Form PTO-1449, be made of record in the above-identified case.

1. U.S. Patent No. 5,350,391, dated September 27, 1994, issued to Iacovelli;
2. U.S. Patent No. 5,520,678, dated May 28, 1996, issued to Hecke et al.;
3. U.S. Patent No. 5,314,445, dated May 24, 1994, issued to Heidmueller Née Degwitz et al.;

---

**CERTIFICATE OF MAILING BY "EXPRESS MAIL"**

**Express Mailing Label No.:** EV052766747US

**Date of Deposit:** December 21, 2001

I hereby certify that this correspondence is being deposited with the United States Postal Service "Express Mail Post Office to Addressee" service under 37 C.F.R. § 1.10 on the date indicated above and is addressed to the Assistant Commissioner for Patents and Trademarks, Washington, D.C. 20231 on December 21, 2001.

Dated: December 21, 2001

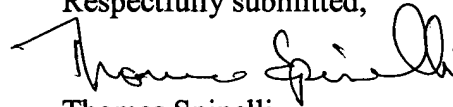
  
Mishelle Mustafa

4. U.S. Patent No. 5,275,608, dated January 4, 1994, issued to Forman et al.;  
and
5. U.S. Patent No. 5,908,436, dated June 1, 1999, issued to Cuschieri et al.;

References 1-4 were cited in a Search Report received from the Japanese Patent Office dated May 22, 2001. Reference 5 is cited in the specification. Applicant is submitting copies of the above-cited references, together with a copy of the Search Report. The relevance of references 1-4 has been described in the Search Report.

Inasmuch as this Information Disclosure Statement is being submitted in accordance with the schedule set out in 37 C.F.R. § 1.97(b), no statement or fee is required.

Respectfully submitted,



Thomas Spinelli

Registration No.: 39,533

Scully, Scott, Murphy & Presser  
400 Garden City Plaza  
Garden City, New York 11530  
(516) 742-4343  
TS:cm